

Amesbury Rural District Council.

Report of the Medical Officer of Health for 1908.

SHREWTON, WILTS,

February 27th, 1909.

GENTLEMEN,

I herewith submit my Annual Report on the health and sanitary condition of your District, for the year ending 1908.

During the year, 300 births were registered, viz., 137 males and 163 females, and during the same period, 112 deaths were registered, but as 11 of these were non-residents, it leaves the net total for the district 101, giving a natural increase of 199.

The birth-rate per 1,000 of the population (estimated by the census of 1901 to be 8,268) is 36·2, as against 32·0 for the year 1907.

The death-rate for the same period is 13·5, as against 14·3 for 1907, but as 11 deaths were non-residents, the death-rate for the year is 12·5.

In the annexed tables will be found the estimated population of each year for the last ten years, also the birth and death-rates with those of deaths under one year of age.

Of the 112 deaths registered, 13 were over 60 and under 70, 26 over 70 and under 80, and 15 over 80 and upwards.

There were 12 deaths of infants under one year of age, making the infant mortality for the year 40·0 per 1,000 births registered.

From the principal Zymotic diseases 10 deaths occurred, viz., 4 from Measles, 2 from Scarlet Fever, 3 from Whooping-cough, and 1 from Diphtheria. There was 1 death from Enteritis, 5 from Phthisis, 3 from other Tuberculous disease, 7 from Cancer, giving a death-rate of 0·8 per 1,000 for the year, as against 1·2 for the year 1907, from this disease. Five deaths occurred from Bronchitis, from Pneumonia 7, from Diseases of the Liver 2, from Premature Birth 4, from Heart-diseases 17, from Accidents 2, and from all other causes 41.

Forty-two cases of Infectious Diseases were notified during the year, viz., 37 from the Amesbury District, 3 from the Orcheston District, and 2 from the Winterbourne District. One case of Diphtheria occurred at Amesbury, and 1 at Shrewton. I was unable to attribute these cases to any specific cause or insanitary condition of the premises.

One case of Erysipelas occurred at Tilshead, but was of a very mild type.

Two cases of Enteric Fever were notified, one occurred at Orcheston, and one at Idmiston. These cases were probably of sporadic origin, as the water-supply and general surroundings of the premises were all in good and sanitary condition.

Thirty-seven cases of Scarlet Fever occurred during the year, viz., 20 in Amesbury, 7 in Durnford, 7 in Woodford, 1 at Bulford, and 2 at Durrington. As regards the outbreak at Amesbury, the first three or four cases occurred in the cottages of men who worked at the Bulford Military Camp. It was probably from this place that the disease was introduced into Amesbury, as cases of Scarlet Fever had been reported as occurring in the Camp, during the months of April, July, September and October. I cannot attribute the outbreak to any other cause, as the first cases in Amesbury were notified a short time after the cases were reported from the Camp.

I have been asked by certain residents in the neighbourhood concerning the advisability of isolating infectious diseases in an Isolation Hospital, and thus checking the disease at the outset. There is no doubt such a Hospital would be of advantage, but it would entail a certain amount of expenditure.

During the recent epidemic, I tried to get over the difficulty by asking neighbouring authorities to allow us to use their Hospital, but unfortunately my efforts were unavailing. I would therefore suggest that the Board should take steps to provide Isolation accommodation for any future outbreak of infectious diseases.

If the instructions given to householders, when disease is in their houses, were thoroughly carried out, home isolation would be satisfactory, but as the recent epidemic shows, these instructions were not properly carried out, and therefore I think that the only way to check future epidemics is by providing proper isolation accommodation.

This would entail slight expenditure, but I think that the Council would find that the degree of public comfort and safety thus attained, would amply compensate them.

Owing to the outbreak of Scarlet Fever, the Schools at Amesbury were closed from October 1st to the 12th, and again from November 13th to December 1st. The Woodford Schools were closed for three weeks from the same cause, and also the Bulford School for one week previous to the Christmas holidays. Owing to an outbreak of Measles the Amesbury Schools were closed from January 28th to March 2nd.

In all cases of infectious diseases the Houses, Cottages, and Schools were disinfected and whitewashed, and every precaution taken to prevent the spreading of disease.

The Medical Inspection of School Children has been introduced and carried out during the past year by the Education Department, according to the circulars issued on the subject.

I have, during the year, analysed samples of water from different villages. All were good and fit for domestic use.

The new drainage scheme at Amesbury is much appreciated by the inhabitants. The river in consequence is much less polluted.

The Streams and Water-courses are all in good order, and the water-supply generally throughout the District is plentiful and good.

During the year, in company with Mr. Huxham, I inspected all the Dairies and Cowsheds in the District, and sent a special report of the same to the Local Government Board. With few exceptions they were all in good order, and those not so satisfactory are going to be improved.

The Slaughter-houses and Bake-houses have been inspected, and found generally satisfactory. Nineteen houses have been built during the year, 26 were cleansed and limewashed, and 2 made fit for habitation.

Six cases of overcrowding occurred and were abated.

As you are aware legal proceedings were taken in two cases in Amesbury, the parents having sent their children to school in the peeling stage of Scarlet Fever.

The Burial Grounds are in good order and sufficient. The Cemetery at Durrington is now finished, and the Church-yard at Maddington is nearly completed.

The health of the District at present is good, no cases of infectious diseases have been notified during the past two months.

My thanks are due to Mr. Huxham for the careful way he has carried out his duties of inspection and disinfection.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

CHARLES EDDOWES.

TABLE I.—AMESBURY RURAL DISTRICT.

Vital Statistics of Whole District during 1908 and previous years.

YEAR.	Population estimated to middle of each Year.	BIRTHS.		Total Deaths Registered in the District.				Total Deaths in Public Institutions in the District.	Deaths of Non-residents registered in Public Institutions in the District.	Deaths of Residents registered in Public Institutions beyond the District.	Nett Deaths at all Ages belonging to the District.	
				Under 1 year of age.		At all Ages.						
		Number.	Rate.*	Number.	Rate per 1,000 Births registered.	Number.	Rate.*				Number.	Rate.
1898	7289	145	19·8	8	55·1	86	11·7	11	3		83	11·3
1899	7357	170	23·1	13	76·4	99	13·4	11	3		96	13·0
1900	7417	162	23·8	27	166·6	134	18·0	8	10		124	16·5
1901	8268	175	21·1	9	51·4	94	11·3	13	4		90	10·8
1902	8357	194	23·4	12	61·8	98	11·8	6	13		85	10·2
1903	8462	214	25·8	9	42·0	100	12·0	20	12		88	10·6
1904	8574	235	28·4	12	51·0	107	12·9	25	12		95	11·4
1905	8720	267	32·2	20	74·9	103	12·4	20	12		91	11·0
1906	8879	275	33·2	19	69·0	121	14·6	37	24		97	11·7
1907	9029	265	32·0	13	49·0	119	14·3	23	18		101	12·2
Averages for years 1898-1907		210	26·2	14	69·7	106	13·2	17	11		95	11·8
1908	9196	300	36·2	12	40·0	112	13·5	19	11	3	104	12·5

*Rates calculated per 1,000 of estimated population.

Area of District in acres
(exclusive of area covered by water.) } 63,453

Total population at all ages, 8,268
Number of inhabited houses, 1,668
Average number of persons per house, 4·95 } At
Census of 1901.

TABLE II.—Vital Statistics of Separate Localities in 1908 and previous years.

YEAR.	NAMES OF LOCALITIES.											
	Amesbury.				Orcheston.				Winterbourne.			
	Population estimated to middle of each year.	Births registered.	Deaths at all Ages.	Deaths under 1 year.	Population estimated to middle of each year.	Births registered.	Deaths at all Ages.	Deaths under 1 year.	Population estimated to middle of each year.	Births registered.	Deaths at all Ages.	Deaths under 1 year.
1898	3500	66	49	5	2003	42	23	2	1784	37	14	1
1899	3527	78	51	3	2022	47	28	3	1808	45	20	7
1900	3547	74	64	16	2039	46	37	5	1825	42	33	6
1901	4470	84	49	4	1875	48	19	1	1923	43	26	4
1902	4514	103	50	3	1901	48	26	5	1942	43	22	4
1903	4575	120	40	6	1920	43	27	1	1967	51	21	2
1904	4657	139	54	4	1943	49	20	5	1995	47	21	3
1905	4757	167	52	13	1974	56	23	5	2022	44	16	2
1906	4879	179	50	6	2000	43	24	6	2051	53	23	7
1907	5005	173	50	8	2021	42	19	0	2075	50	32	5
Averages of Years 1898 to 1907		118	50	6						45	22	4
1908	5139	191	46	6	2043	50	30	4	2099	59	28	2

TABLE III.

Cases of Infectious Disease notified during the year 1908 in the Amesbury Rural District.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE.			CASES NOTIFIED IN WHOLE DISTRICT.							Total Cases Notified in each Locality.		
			At all Ages.	At Ages—Years.						Amesbury.	Orcheston.	Winterbourne.
				Under 1.	1 to 5.	5 to 15.	15 to 25.	25 to 65.	65 and upwards			
Diphtheria	...	...	2	...	...	2	...	...	...	1	1	...
Erysipelas	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	1	...
Scarlet Fever	...	...	37	...	9	24	1	3	...	36	...	1
Enteric Fever	...	...	2	...	...	1	...	1	...	...	1	1
TOTALS	...	...	42	...	9	27	1	5	...	37	3	2

Isolation Hospital, none.

TABLE IV.—Causes of, and Ages at, Death during 1908, in the Amesbury Rural District.

CAUSE OF DEATH.	Deaths at the subjoined ages of "Residents" whether occurring in or beyond the District.							Deaths at all Ages of "Residents" belonging to Localities, whether occurring in or beyond the District.			Total Deaths whether of "Residents" or "non-Residents" in Public Institutions in the District
	Allages.	Under 1 year.	1 and under 5.	5 and under 15.	15 and under 25.	25 and under 65.	65 and up-wards.	Ames-bury.	Orches-ton.	Winter-bourne.	
Measles ...	4	...	2	2	...	...	...	3	1	...	...
Scarlet Fever ...	2	...	...	2	...	...	...	1	...	1	1
Whooping-cough ...	3	1	2	...	...	...	...	2	1	...	...
Diphtheria (including Membranous croup)	1	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	...
Enteritis ...	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...
Phthisis ...	5	...	...	...	1	3	1	4	...	1	...
Other tubercular diseases	3	...	...	1	...	2	...	1	2	...	1
Cancer, malignant disease	7	...	...	...	...	4	3	1	2	4	1
Bronchitis ...	5	...	...	...	...	1	4	1	3	1	...
Pneumonia ...	7	1	2	...	1	2	1	3	1	3	2
Alcoholism, Cirrhosis of liver	2	...	...	...	...	1	1	1	...	1	...
Premature birth ...	4	4	...	...	...	...	...	2	1	1	2
Heart diseases ...	17	..	...	...	2	8	7	8	6	3	2
Accidents ...	2	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	2	...	1
All other causes ...	41	5	...	...	...	5	31	19	9	13	9
All causes ...	104	12	6	6	4	27	49	46	30	28	19

TABLE V.—*Infantile Mortality during the year 1908, in the Amesbury Rural District.*
Deaths from stated Causes in Weeks and Months under One Year of Age.

CAUSE OF DEATH.	Under 1 week.	1—2 weeks.	Total under 1 month.	3—4 months.	4—5 months.	7—8 months.	Total Deaths under One Year.
All causes— Certified							12
Whooping cough ... ..	...	...	...	1	...	...	1
Enteritis ... ..	...	...	...	...	1	...	1
Premature birth	4	...	4	...	...	..	4
Atrophy, Debility, Marasmus }	2	1	3	...	1	...	4
Convulsions ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	1	1
Pneumonia ... ..	...	...	...	...	1	..	1
	6	1	7	1	3	1	12

Births in the year {	legitimate 291	Deaths {	legitimate 12
	illegitimate 9		illegitimate nil

Summary of Work done in Sanitary Inspector's Department of the Amesbury Rural District during the year ending 31st December, 1908.

Prevention of Infectious Disease under direction of Medical Officer of Health.

No. of Cases enquired into ...	42
No. of Houses Disinfected and Cleansed	26
No. of Patients removed to Hospital	3
Lots of Bedding, Clothing, etc., disinfected	26
Cases of Illegal Exposure reported	2

Houses.

No. erected (if information obtainable)	19
No. made fit for habitation ...	2
No. Cleansed and limewashed ...	26

Overcrowding.

No. of cases abated ...	6
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House Drains.

No. Laid or re-laid ...	106
No. Cleansed, Trapped, and Ventilated	12
No. of Insanitary Lavatories, Sinks, and Urinals rectified ...	32

Water Closets.

No. of additional W.C.'s provided	15
No. Repaired, Ventilated, and supplied with Flush Cisterns ...	4

Privies and Ashpits.

No. of additional Privies and Ashpits provided ...	17
No. converted to W.C.'s or Slop-Closets	6
No. converted to Pail-closets ...	20
No. Repaired ...	23

Water Supply.

No. of Wells sunk ...	13
No. of Wells cleansed and repaired	15
No. of Samples taken for Analysis	6

Slaughter Houses.

No. Regularly Inspected ...	5
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Dairies and Cowsheds.

No. of Persons engaged in Milk Trade now on Register and under Supervision	27
No. of Contraventions of Acts, Orders, and Bye-laws dealt with ...	3

Factories, Workshops, and Bakehouses.

No. under Inspection ...	17
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Animals kept so as to be a Nuisance.

No. of Cases of Removal on Notice	3
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Accumulation of Offensive Refuse.

No. of Removals ...	2
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Legal Proceedings.

No. taken ...	2
No. of Convictions obtained ...	2

Clerical Work.

No. of Notices served ...	58
No. of Notices complied with ...	49
No. of Notices Outstanding ...	9

(Signed) JOHN T. HUXHAM.